

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

~~Kindly~~ replace claims 1-13, as follows.

1. (Amended) A method of detecting portable objects using a network of N antennae, controlled by a centralised management unit, comprising the following steps:  
transmitting signals simultaneously to all the antennae from said management unit,  
receiving a resulting signal by said management unit, said resulting signal comprising response signals from the antennae which have detected a portable object, and  
successively selecting each object detected from this resultant signal, according to a pre-established sequence.

2. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, wherein the successive selection of each object is effected by the use of an anti-collision algorithm.

3. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, wherein the reception of the resulting signal by the management unit is obtained by the reception of the response signals from the antennae respectively at an input port of the unit assigned to each antenna, and adding said signals.

4. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, wherein the reception of a resulting signal by the management unit is obtained by reception of said resulting signal at an input port of the unit that is assigned to all the antennae in the system.

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5. (Amended) A detection method according to claim 1, wherein the reception of the resulting signal includes a step of identifying the origin of the response signals forming said resulting signal.

6. (Amended) A detection method according to claim 14, wherein the identification of a response signal includes a step of storing the identification of the antenna associated with the input port at which the response signal is received.

7. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 6, wherein said storing step includes positioning a flip-flop in a logic state and deactivating it when the unit has entered into communication with the portable object detected by the corresponding antenna.

8. (Amended) A detection method according to claim 15, wherein the identification of a response signal includes a step of concatenating the identification of the antenna in the response signal sent by the antenna.

9. (Amended) A system of detecting portable objects including a network of N antennae associated with transmission/reception means and a centralised management unit, comprising:

transmission means in the management unit that is connected to transmission/reception means of the antennae and that sends signals simultaneously to all the antennae,

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reception means in said unit being that is connected to said transmission/reception means and that receives response signals from the antennae which have detected a portable object, in the form of distinct signals for each antenna or a resulting signal in accordance with the type of connection established between the transmission and reception means of the management unit and the antennae, and

means for successively selecting each portable object detected according to a pre-established sequence.

10. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for successively selecting each portable object detected in a pre-established sequence includes an anti-collision algorithm.

11. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9 wherein the transmission and reception means of the management unit and the transmission/reception means of the antenna are connected in point-to-point mode by connections of the serial transmission type.

12. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9 wherein the transmission and reception means of the management unit include an input port connected to all the antennae by a connection of the serial transmission type.

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13. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 11, wherein the management unit includes an antenna discriminator.

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~~Add the following new claims:~~

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--14. (New) A detection method according to claim 3, wherein the reception of the resulting signal includes a step of identifying the origin of the response signals forming said resulting signal.

15. (New) A detection method according to claim 4, wherein the reception of the resulting signal includes a step of identifying the origin of the response signals forming said resulting signal.--

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